

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 14TH MARCH 2025

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

The last few weeks have been packed with some lovely events. For example, we had 114 people at our craft morning for children & families during half term week. We usually get around 90 attendees, but this was a new record! All the children and their parents/ carers seemed to enjoy the morning and went away happy, which was so rewarding. As usual, our food bank collection was very well supported by local community members as well as the church family - and the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank are very grateful for all the contributions (please see photo attached). David Packham hosted a quiet day on the 8th of March, which was much appreciated by those who attended, and George Drewitt has begun an excellent Lent Course (it's not too late to join in - do see details below!).

This email is to let you know further news and of events coming up in the parish in the next few weeks.

Parish Lent Course

The Parish Lent Course has got off to a brilliant start this week and we are learning about the sacraments using materials based on Jane Williams book: <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/the-sacraments>

It's not too late to join if you'd like to. We meet on Tuesdays in the St. Mary's vestry at 7.30 pm and the remaining dates are as follows: 18th March, 25th March, 1st April, 8th April

This year's course is being led by George Drewitt.

A message about the upcoming Parish Quiz from Sue Wharton and the team:

Calling all you quizzers out there! If you haven't already booked your place for the quiz next Saturday, March 22nd at St Paul's Hall there's still time to do so. Why not invite family and friends along too? Don't worry if you can't rustle up a whole team of 8 though, there will be a 'parish' table that you can join. Please contact Sue Wharton (cw_bh@norkwithburghheath.com) by 9am Thursday morning if you would like to come along and let her know of any dietary requirements or allergies as a ploughman's supper will be provided. Tickets cost £7.50 for adults and £5 for under 16s. Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Please bring along your own snacks, drinks and glasses. For a bit of extra fun there will also be a true/false 'Stand-up/Sit-down quiz so do also come prepared with £1 per person for that! Prizes will be awarded! Look forward to seeing you there!

A flyer is attached.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes Update from Tricia:

Having placed barcodes in my own packed shoeboxes, I have now been notified as to the continent/area they were delivered to:

CENTRAL ASIA

("Due to the ongoing political and religious sensitivities in some parts, it's important we prioritise the safety of partners operating in restricted areas, not to disclose a country").

Not having heard otherwise, I'm assuming all our shoeboxes from St Mary's and St Paul's were sent together in the same shipment.

Heartfelt thanks, from Deirdre and I, to all who supported 'Operation Christmas Child' – filling your own shoeboxes or packing on-line, donating financially or by donating individual items.

Starting early for 2025!

You will find boxes at the back of each of the churches. If unable to fill a shoebox yourself this year, please consider donating suggested items on the list or placing donations in the envelope or even sharing a shoebox. Thank you.

Tricia

A Message About 'Easter Experience for Sutton Schools' from David Wharton:

It's that time of year again, when the Sutton Schools team put on Easter Experience, telling the real story of Easter to numerous schools across the borough.

This year I will be "appearing" at North Cheam Baptist church as usual for a week, but Marian Bateman and I will be working together for a couple of days at St Peters church, Rose Hill, which. along with St Michael and all Angels church in Wallington, will be a first time venue. It's also Marian's first time, and we would appreciate prayer for us and all the other cast members at the various churches.

North Cheam runs from 17th to 21st March, and then we'll be at St Peter's on the 27th and 28th.

Other dates coming up:

Sunday 23rd March, 10 am: Whole Parish Service at St. Mary's

Wednesday 26th March, 2 - 4 pm: Parish Food Bank Collection at St. Paul's

The Epsom and Ewell Food Bank are Currently Collecting the following items: Squash, tinned fish, cooking sauces, instant coffee, tea bags, LongLife milk, ketchup, mayonnaise, custard, powdered milk, tinned fruit, LongLife sponge puddings, sugar (500g), savoury biscuits, biscuits, crisps, chocolate biscuit bars, honey, chocolate spread, deodorant (male/ female), shower gel, shampoo & conditioner, children's toothpaste, washing up liquid, washing powder.

Saturday 29th March, 10 am - 12 pm: Refresh@10 at St. Mary's

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

07312 113019

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